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To the Environment Committee February 19, 2014

Dear Members of the committee,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak and bring this very important issue to your attention. As you know the encroachment of bamboo (*Phyllostachys*, including *Phyllostachys aureosulcata*) onto properties is causing tremendous damage to land and existing infrastructure.

Damage to the land:

- *Demineralization and depletion of the soil of all nutrients, so nothing will grow there for long period of time,
- *Destruction of the native plants, trees and shrubs, .
- *Overgrowth of wetlands and parks,
- *Growing under the railroad tracks

Damage to the infra-Structure

It is known that bamboo will grow through gas lines, sewer systems, foundation of houses, under the siding of houses, swimming pools, asphalt streets; it runs under the rail road tracks, it leans on electric lines, (and snow weighs them down and breaks them), grows into transformers, under decks; it crosses separating walls between properties, and in my case it even grew into my beehive and destroyed a whole colony.

Looking at all this destruction and the state Connecticut in general, which has a lots of dense urban areas where properties are at a close proximity to each other, I would like SB 72 to include running bamboo declared a nuisance, with a 40 ft. setback on EXISTING bamboo. (There cannot be any bamboo in the setback area, above or below ground).

We cannot keep looking at the symptom and forget the cause.

In this case, the causing organism is the existing bamboo that spreads exponentially. Unless we get this under control, all other efforts are secondary. Because of this reason we need to include the EXISTING bamboo in SB 72.

Thank you for your time,

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